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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

How China Infiltrated U.S. Classrooms

By Ethan Epstein

Last year, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte announced it would soon open a Confucius Institute, the Chinese government-funded institution that teaches Chinese language, culture and history. The Confucius Institute would "help students be better equipped to succeed in an increasingly globalized world," says Nancy Gutierrez, a UNC dean.

A 2011 speech by a member of the Politburo in Beijing laid out the case: "The Confucius Institute is an appealing brand for expanding our culture abroad," Li Changchun said. "It has made an important contribution toward improving our soft power. The 'Confucius' brand has a natural attractiveness. Using the excuse of teaching Chinese language, everything looks reasonable and logical."

Confucius Institutes have sprouted up at more than 500 college campuses worldwide, with more than 100 of them in the U.S. The Chinese Ministry of Education, known colloquially as Hanban, is pumping out an estimated \$10 billion annually.

Confucius Institutes teach a Beijing-approved version of Chinese culture and history: one that ignores human rights, for example, and teaches that Taiwan and Tibet indisputably belong to Mainland China. Critics also charge that the centers have led to a climate of self-censorship on campuses that play host to them.

This points to another disturbing trend in American higher education: a willingness to accept money at the expense of principles that universities are ostensibly devoted to upholding. At a time when universities are willing to shield their charges from

controversial viewpoints, some nonetheless welcome foreign, communist propaganda.

The first Confucius Institute opened in South Korea in 2004 and quickly spread to Japan, Australia, Canada, Europe and the U.S. Hanban also operates hundreds of so-called Confucius Classrooms in primary and secondary schools. The public school system of Chicago, for example, has outsourced its Chinese program to Confucius Classrooms.

Marshall Sahlins, a retired U. of Chicago anthropologist and author of the 2014 pamphlet *Confucius Institutes: Academic Malware*, reports that each Confucius Institute comes with "\$100,000 ... in startup costs, with annual payments of the like over a five-year period, and instruction subsidized as well, including the air fares and salaries of the teachers provided from China. ... Hanban also agrees to send textbooks, videos, and other classroom materials for these courses." The institutes also offer "fun" classes—often open to members of the general public—in subjects like dumpling making and tai chi.

The Chinese teachers are explicitly instructed to toe Beijing's line. There can be no discussion of human rights, or the Tiananmen Square massacre. Sahlins found that should a student raise an uncomfortable question about, say, the political status of Tibet, Hanban's instructors are ordered to refocus the discussion on, say, Tibet's natural beauty or indigenous cultural practices (which, ironically, Beijing has spent decades stamping out).

Hanban's instructors must conform. Sonia Zhao, a Chinese national, dispatched to McMaster U., in 2011 to teach Chinese language quit a

year into her tenure, arguing that McMaster was "giving legitimization to discrimination." That's because she was forced to disguise her fealty to Falun Gong. Open religious discrimination is illegal in Canada. McMaster subsequently shuttered its Confucius Institute in 2013.

Self-censorship has become an issue as well. In 2009, NC State U., host to a Confucius Institute, scuttled a planned appearance by the Dalai Lama for fear of Chinese backlash:

In 2014 the University of Chicago booted the Institute because of academic freedom concerns, winning the praise from *Forbes* and the *New York Review of Books*. Shockingly few universities have followed Chicago's lead, though Penn State closed its institute in 2014, as well.

Many universities who maintain Confucius Institutes appear to go to great lengths to shield them from criticism. Last year, Rachelle Peterson released a report about Confucius Institutes for the National Association of Scholars, a right-leaning academic organization. Over the course of her reporting on 12 Confucius Institutes in NY and NJ, Peterson says, "There were a lot of unanswered emails, a lot of unanswered phone calls." When she did manage to set up interviews with Confucius Institute staff, they were often canceled at the last minute.

At Alfred U. in upstate NY, Peterson says she had "received permission to sit in on [a class]." She recalls that the provost of the university charged into the classroom, interrupting the lesson. He told her she had to leave the campus immediately. The provost and a Confucius staffer swiftly escorted her off campus. (Alfred U. did not respond to a request for comment.)

The National Association of Scholars suggests universities shutter their Confucius Institutes. The American Association of University Professors, America's leading professorial guild, also recommended in 2014 "that universities cease their involvement in Confucius Institutes unless the agreement between the university and Hanban is renegotiated."

Instead, Confucius Institutes continue their forward march. In 2015, they opened 4 new ones in the U.S., and in 2016, two more.

Confucius Classrooms, for younger students, are also ascendant: In October, local media reported that three new ones would be planted in Texas public schools, and UMass Boston is helping develop them at schools in Massachusetts. And they're growing rapidly overseas, particularly in Africa, where China has been aggressively expanding its footprint in recent years. -- politico.com

January 16, 2018

SHOT Show: 7 Great Firearms for Concealed Carry, Home Defense

By AWR Hawkins

The National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) Annual SHOT show was held Jan. 23-26 in Las Vegas, Nevada, and two stand out as perfect additions for home defense.

Here they are:

Mossberg 590M—The Mossberg 590M is a brand new offering in home defense shotguns. From a distance it simply looks like a 12 gauge Mossberg pump shotgun, but up close one realizes the magazine tube is inert. The gun is loaded via detachable, double stack magazines rather than a fixed tube. Mossberg magazines will be available in 5, 10, 15, or 20 round capacity for the 590M. This gives the gun owner a huge advantage over the common three-to-five rounds normally available via a tubular mag. The 590M is certain to lead to a large contingent of sight options, magazine variations, and other shotgun accessories in the aftermarket world. The suggested retail price of the upcoming 590M has not been announced.

UTAS UTS 15 Semiautomatic—UTAS is well known for its 15-round capacity UTS 15 pump shotgun, which is a tremendous tool for home defense. The gun has two tubular magazines fitted and offset above the barrel, each holding 7 rounds (with one in the chamber making a total of 15 rounds). At SHOT Show we were able to see the upcoming UTS 15 semiautomatic. It

was like the 15 cosmopolitan, differing only in the fact that the action does not depend on a pump. Rather, the gun feeds itself a round every time a shell is fired. Very little information was available on the weapon, but it is certain to take home defense to a whole new level. -- www.breitbart.com 27 January 2018

Congress's Ratification of Trump's Spying Power Is a Direct Threat to Our Privacy

By Marjorie Cohn

The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance (FISA) Reauthorization Act of 2017, which Congress passed on January 19, poses a serious threat to the privacy of our internet communications.

Congress voted to extend Section 702 of FISA, with minimal changes, for six years. It permits the National Security Agency (NSA) to collect email and texts of foreigners abroad without a warrant, and also allows spying on Americans who communicate with people outside the United States.

In 2013, whistleblower Edward Snowden revealed that the NSA was using section 702 to spy on Americans through the PRISM internet surveillance program. The government is collecting private messages, without a warrant, from US companies including Yahoo, Google, Microsoft, Facebook, Skype, AOL, Apple and YouTube. It targets foreigners who are "reasonably believed" to be outside the US, even though the surveillance occurs on US soil. However, the communications of Americans can also be incidentally intercepted.

In a vote of 65 to 34, 18 Senate Democrats joined many of their Republican colleagues to give the Trump administration vast spying authority.

The bill, which allows warrantless backdoor searches of the communications of Americans, requires a warrant when there is an ongoing criminal investigation.

Snowden maintains that Congress would not have reauthorized section 702 if it knew about alleged abuses of the program described in a secret government memo. On Friday, he tweeted, "Officials confirm there's a secret report showing abuses of spy law Congress voted to reauthorize this week. If this memo had been known prior to the vote, FISA reauth would have failed. These abuses must be made public and @realDonaldTrump

should send the bill back with a veto." -- truth-out.org January 22, 2018

Finding Your Voice

By Ava Kofman

Classified documents provided by former NSA contractor Edward Snowden reveal that the NSA has developed technology not just to record and transcribe private conversations but to automatically identify the speakers by a technology known as speaker recognition, or speaker identification — which Americans encounter when they wake up Amazon's Alexa or call their bank.

The technology works by analyzing the physical and behavioral features that make each person's voice distinctive, such as the pitch, shape of the mouth, and length of the larynx. An algorithm then creates a "voiceprint." The entire process — capturing a few spoken words, turning those words into a voiceprint, and comparing it to other "voiceprints" already stored in the database — can happen almost instantaneously. Voiceprints, according to a 2008 agency document, are "where NSA reigns supreme."

Documents from the Snowden archive reveal that analysts could connect individuals to their past utterances, even when they had used unknown phone numbers, secret code words, or multiple languages.

Unlike DNA, speaker recognition technology can be collected passively and from a great distance, without a subject's knowledge or consent. The technology can use a few spoken sentences to precisely match individuals.

A major concern of civil libertarians is the potential to chill speech. Trevor Timm, executive director of the Freedom of the Press Foundation, pointed to the many avenues — TVs, headphones, internet-enabled devices — through which voices might be surreptitiously recorded. "We all carry around a microphone 24 hours a day, in the form of our cellphones," Timm said. "And we know that there are ways for the government to hack into phones and computers to turn those devices on."

In 2007, analysts noticed that the frequencies of the intercepts of two targets they had identified as Al Qaeda associates were out of normal human ranges. The audio cuts twisted the speaker's vocal pitches so that they sounded like "a character from Alvin and the Chipmunks." This led analysts to speculate that AQAP members involved in the December 2009

bombing attempt in Detroit had escaped government recognition by masking their voices on new phone numbers.

Timm noted that in the last several years, whistleblowers, sources, and journalists have taken greater security precautions to avoid exposing themselves. But that "if reporters are using telephone numbers not associated with their identity, and the government is scanning their phone calls, the technology could also be used to potentially stifle journalism."

For Timothy Edgar, who worked as the intelligence community's first deputy for civil liberties, speaker recognition may help to protect an individual's privacy. The technology allows analysts to select and filter calls so that they can home in on a person of interest's voice and screen out those of others.

At a 2010 conference — described as an "unprecedented opportunity to understand how the NSA is bringing all its creative energies to bear on tracking an individual" — directors spoke about how to take a "whole life" strategy to their targets. They described the need to integrate biometric data, like voiceprints, with biographic information, like social networks and personal history. In the agency's own words, "It is all about locating, tracking, and maintaining continuity on individuals across space and time. It's not just the traditional communications we're after — It's taking a 'full arsenal' approach."

-- <https://theintercept.com/2018/01/19>

2017 Second-Best Year for Gun Sales

By Stephen Gutowski, January 4, 2018

2017 saw the second-most gun-related FBI background checks on record, a report released on Wednesday showed.

The National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) conducted 25,235,215 checks last year. That's nearly 2.3 million checks fewer than the record-breaking year of 2016 but also nearly 2.1 million checks more than 2015, the third-best year on record.

The number of checks conducted by NICS is not, however, a perfect representation of raw gun sales. Sales between private parties on the used market are not required to go through a background check in most states. Sales of multiple guns during one transaction generally only require a single background check.

"These statistics represent the number of firearm background checks initiated through the NICS," the FBI wrote in its report. "They do not represent the number of firearms sold."

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, a leading industry group, also pointed out that NICS check numbers include checks for gun-carry permits. The group's own analysis of the report found 2017 was the fourth-highest year on record for gun checks.

"Even so, 2017 was a good year on an historical basis showing underlying strength for the shooting sports and for Americans wanting to exercise their Second Amendment rights," Michael Bazinet, an NSSF spokesman, told the Washington Free Beacon.

Alan Gottlieb of the Second Amendment Foundation said, "Gun sales were down from 2016 because the threat to gun rights, which drives demand, was no longer being driven by attacks on gun ownership from Barrack Obama and Hillary Clinton....I think sales of firearms in 2018 will be close to levels in 2017 due to threats on gun rights on the state level and the continued concern for keeping safe from crime and terror."

-- <http://freebeacon.com>

"A great watershed in American intellectual history"

During the Depression writers and intellectuals generally veered sharply to the left. Indeed 1929-33 was a great watershed in American intellectual history. In the 18th century American men of ideas and letters had been closely in tune with the republicanism of the Founding Fathers. In the 19th century they had on the whole endorsed the individualism which was at the core of the American way of life....From the early Thirties, however, the intellectuals, carrying with them a predominant part of academia and workers in the media, moved into a position of criticism and hostility towards the structural ideas of the American consensus: the free market, capitalism, individualism, enterprise, independence, and personal responsibility.-- *A History of the American People*, Paul Johnson (1997), p. 973

"Social Security – The alarming growth in unfunded payouts"

The first Social Security check was issued to Ida Fuller of Brattleboro, Vermont in 1940. It was for \$22.54. At the time she got this check

she had paid in only \$22.00. By the time she drew her last check in 1974 she had received \$22,944, all except \$22.00 unfunded. No wonder President Reagan called it 'an inter-generational Ponzi scheme.' It was a kind of pyramid fraud played on youth, which Congress knowingly promoted. Between 1950 and 1972 Congress raised social security benefits or extended eligibility eleven times, six of them in election years. The most irresponsible change came in 1972 when Rep. Wilbur Mills raised it 20% and indexed it to the Consumer Price Index. By 1982 the average pensioner was collecting (in real terms) five times in benefits what he/she had paid in taxes.

-- Johnson (1997), p. 923

"The optimum number of lawyers"

One 1989 study by Stephen P. Magee indicated that the optimum number of lawyers needed was only 60% of the existing total and that each additional lawyer joining the profession above this total reduced America's GDP by \$2.5 million. -- Johnson (1997), p. 950

Amid rising gun violence, accidental shooting deaths have plummeted. Why?

By Kurtis Lee

A country music festival in Las Vegas: 58 dead. A Baptist church in Sutherland Springs, Texas: 26 dead. The streets of Baltimore last year: nearly 300 dead.

Gun violence has received no shortage of attention. But one bright spot has gotten much less: the number of accidental shooting deaths has steadily declined.

There were 489 people killed in unintentional shootings in the U.S. in 2015, the most recent year for which data is available. That was down from 824 deaths in 1999, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Taking into account population growth over that time, the rate fell 48%.

Experts attribute the decline to a mix of gun safety education programs, state laws regulating gun storage in homes and a drop in the number of households that have guns. While the improvement occurred in every state, those with the most guns and the fewest laws continue to have the most accidental shooting deaths.

Of the 489 people killed in accidental shootings in 2015, more than 85% were male, and nearly 27% of those were between 15 and 24. Men

between 25 and 34 were the next-most vulnerable group.

The rates for males under 15 was far lower, perhaps due to so-called child access prevention laws, which allow for criminal or civil charges to be filed against a gun owner if a child gains access to a firearm that is not securely stored.

Jon S. Vernick, co-director at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Policy and Research, says the decline has been underway for at least three decades. In 1981, for example, the U.S. total was 1,871, nearly four times the total in recent years.

Vernick says that while Americans continue to purchase guns at all-time highs, they are concentrated in fewer households.

In 2015, researchers at the University of Chicago found that 31% of households reported having a firearm in 2014, down from about 48% in 1977 to 1980.

The top 10 states for accidental gun deaths are Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, West Virginia, Arkansas, Wyoming, Montana, Kentucky, Alaska and Tennessee.

Some experts caution that the national drop could also reflect, at least in part, changes in how medical examiners classify deaths — determinations that the CDC relies on for its data.

"Intent is not always obvious in the case of self-inflicted gunshot wounds ... whether the shooting was accidental or suicide," said Robert Anderson, who leads the statistics branch at the CDC. "Medical examiners and coroners often will use accidental manner of death as default in the absence of compelling evidence of suicide."

Researchers say uncertainty over what is driving the decline also stems from a lack of federal funding to study the issue.

In 1996, the Republican-controlled Congress passed the so-called Dickey Amendment, which stipulated that money appropriated to the CDC could not "be used to advocate or promote gun control."

-- LA Times January 1, 2018

2017: Chicago Homicides Outnumber U.S. Military Casualties 18 to 1

By Michael W. Chapman

There were 664 homicides in Chicago in 2017 and, for comparison, 37 casualties in the U.S. military in its myriad operations around the globe. That's according to data from

the Chicago Tribune and from the Department of Defense's press office.

The Chicago deaths are for the period Jan. 1, 2017 through Dec. 31, 2017; the military deaths are from Jan. 1, 2017 through Dec. 22, 2017, which is the latest update on casualties by the DoD posted so far. (There may have been a few more military casualties in December.)

From the data available, it shows that Chicago suffered 17.9 times more homicides than the U.S. military worldwide -- combat and non-combat related deaths -- last year.

-- www.cnsnews.com January 2, 2018

Mayor Declares Chicago Crime-Free Zone, Criminals Disperse

By The Babylon Bee, January 4, 2017

CHICAGO, IL—Immediately upon Mayor Rahm Emanuel's recent declaration of the entire city of Chicago as an official "crime-free zone," every criminal in the city suddenly and miraculously left the urban area, according to a statement released by the city council.

"We declare every part of the city of Chicago a crime-free zone," Emanuel announced in a Thursday appearance on CBS This Morning. "It is now physically impossible for any crime to be committed in our great city, because we declared it a zone of peace and harmony and criminals have no choice but to abide by our new rule."

Emanuel claimed he didn't want to resort to such extreme legislative measures, but as the crime situation in Chicago didn't seem to be getting any better, his hand was forced.

"I finally decided to use the strongest weapon at our disposal: declaring things illegal," he said.

Stunned onlookers claim the second the legislation banning any criminals from the city was signed into law, dangerous gangsters, conniving drug dealers, and thieving hooligans fled the city on foot, as though compelled by some kind of strange, alien force.

"Witness the awesome power of declaring things to be banned and watching them instantly disappear into nothingness!" Emanuel said.

At publishing time, Governor Jerry Brown had taken a page from Emanuel's book, declaring Hollywood a "perversion-free" zone and immediately ending all ongoing sex scandals in the city.

--http://babylonbee.com

No, You Don't Have to Give Your Doctor Your SSN

By Ann Brenhoff

While no cybercriminal would turn down a chance to get his hands on your credit card information, there's an even bigger prize: your Social Security number, which is the single most valuable piece of information in terms of being able to steal your identity.

So if our SSNs are such hot property, why do doctors routinely ask for them? The answer: Your doctor's office wants your SSN so it can track you down if you don't pay your bill.

But no, you don't legally have to provide it unless you are a Medicare or Medicaid recipient. Nor should you, experts say.

According to TrendMicro the health care sector is a "preferred target" for cybercriminals. 113.2 million health care-related records were stolen in 2015 — according to the Department of Health and Human Services.

Only a few organizations have a legal right to your SSN, including your employer, banks and lenders, investment funds, the IRS and government-funded programs such as workers' compensation.

Armed with your SSN, someone can file fraudulent tax returns in your name, open credit cards, or get official documents like a passport or driver's license. If a thief steals your credit card or bank account number, for example, it's useful only until the credit limit is reached or you catch on to the hack and close the account. But you can't close your SSN.

And, as for those places that just ask for the last four digits? They aren't doing you any favors either. The first five digits of a person's number are easy to figure out using publicly available information, according to a 2009 study at Carnegie Mellon University. Those numbers represent where the card was issued and when, so if someone knows where and when you were born, they're a piece of cake to decode. If a savvy fraudster can get you to tell him the last four of your SSN, he's in business.

-- www.huffingtonpost.com 02/06/2018

German worker with Muslim refugees admits she was wrong, plans to move to Poland

By Paul Joseph Watson

A refugee worker who in 2015 welcomed the opening of Germany's borders to over a million predominantly

Muslim migrants now admits she was wrong and is emigrating to Poland, asserting, "It's too late for Germany."

After founding the refugee aid association Working Group Asylum + Human Rights in 2012, Rebecca Sommer was delighted to welcome the migrants.

"At that time I wanted to help everyone and truly believed that all these people were fleeing hell and were in a state of complete distress," Sommer told Polish weekly *Do Rzeczy*.

Along with over 300 volunteers, Sommer began providing German language courses to the new arrivals with the aim of helping them integrate into society.

With the initial hope that "their medieval view was going to change with time," Sommer soon realized that, "Muslim refugees have grown up with values that are totally different, they have undergone brainwashing from childhood on and are indoctrinated by Islam and absolutely do not intend to adopt our values."

She also observed how the migrants, "regard we infidels with disdain and arrogance," after they began to refer to her as "the stupid German whore."

"If Poland and Hungary do not give in on this question, you could become countries that some Germans and French will flee to. You could become islands of stability in Europe," said Sommer, adding that she has been personally attacked five separate times by Arabic-speaking men.

Indeed, fear of sexual assault is now so commonplace in Germany that jogging shorts which emit a high pitch alarm when triggered are selling like hot cakes.

Sommer concludes that with family reunification, Germany will be swamped by Muslim migrants and that political Islam, which is already beginning to exert its influence in schools, political parties, the government and the police force, will eventually become completely dominant.

-- www.infowars.com February 5, 2018

Denmark to Become the Latest European Nation to Ban the Burqa

The Danish Ministry of Justice has put out a press release indicating that the government is looking to place a ban on full-face Islamic veils.

The Ministry of Justice wrote, "In Denmark, we will meet each other properly – face to face," and

added that in order to properly participate in Danish society it requires other people to be able to see a person's face and confirm their identity, Swedish broadcaster SVT reports.

Denmark will follow in the footsteps of other European countries which have also banned the full-face veil, fully or partially, including France, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Belgium, Germany, and parts of Switzerland.

-- www.breitbart.com 7 February 2018

GOP rips Rand Paul for government shutdown

Sen. Rand Paul took a stand, consequences be damned. And Senate Republicans are livid about it.

After driving the government into a brief shutdown over his demand for an amendment to cut government spending, the Kentucky Republican took friendly fire from a significant number of his Republican colleagues. They accused him of misusing the Senate's time for no real reason other than to draw attention to himself.

The Paul-driven shutdown was sparked by the libertarian-leaning senator's insistence that Majority Leader Mitch McConnell grant him a vote to amend a budget deal that includes more than \$300 billion in new spending. McConnell refused, reasoning that would open up the bill to too many amendments. In turn, Paul declined to allow a vote before midnight, when government funding expired.

"The hypocrisy is astounding. Every one of these Republicans complained about President Obama's deficits," Paul said.

The like-minded Sen. Mike Lee said individual senators are "left out of the process" and left with a binary choice of voting yes or no, with no alterations to legislation.

"I'm not advocating for shutting down the government. I'm also not advocating for keeping the damn thing open and borrowing a million dollars a minute. This is reckless spending that is out of control," Paul said on Fox News before marching to the Senate floor with a series of charts about how much he dislikes the bill. He spoke for more than an hour.

"Your grandkids are being stuck with the bill! Mark my words, the stock market is jittery" over the debt, Paul said. "It's worth a debate whether we should borrow a million dollars a minute."-- www.politico.com 2018/92/08

Why Trump lost in federal court on California's sanctuary cities

The Trump administration may not want to hear it, but sanctuary cities are protected by both the Constitution and Supreme Court precedent. For starters, as the late Justice Antonin Scalia explained in *Printz v. U.S.* (1997), "the Federal Government may neither issue directives requiring the States to address particular problems, nor command the State's officers, or those of their political subdivisions, to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program."

In other words, Trump's executive order flunks the 10th Amendment test that Scalia spelled out in *Printz*. State and local officials have every right to refuse to enforce federal immigration laws [just as Sheriff Printz had the right to refuse to enforce federal gun control laws.]

-- Damon Root, Opinion, Orange County Register, December 7, 2017

CA Court Upholds Judicial Watch Lawsuit against SF Sanctuary Policies

The Superior Court of California has overruled San Francisco Sheriff Vicky Hennessy's move to end a lawsuit challenging the sheriff's sanctuary policy. The lawsuit challenges restrictions on the ability of sheriff's deputies to communicate freely with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) about inmates' citizenship, immigration status and release dates.

The November 1, 2017 ruling upheld a December 2016 lawsuit brought by Judicial Watch on behalf of taxpayer Cynthia Cerletti. The suit alleges that Sheriff Hennessy's restriction on communications with ICE conflict with federal immigration law and are therefore invalid.

San Francisco's sanctuary policy received national attention on July 1, 2015, when Kathryn Steinle was gunned down allegedly by Jose Zarate, an illegal alien who had been released from the Sheriff's Department despite a request from ICE that he be detained for possible deportation.

Superior Court Judge Harold Kahn wrote there is "sufficient support at this stage of the case for Ms. Cerletti's allegation that the Sheriff's policy prohibiting or restricting release information about suspected priority aliens stands as an obstacle to the accomplishment of Congress' asserted

purpose of enabling federal immigration officials to gain access to inmates who may have violated federal immigration laws." The lawsuit may now proceed to discovery.

-- JW "Verdict" February 2018

Hundreds apply to carry loaded, concealed handguns in D.C.

By Ann E. Marimow

More than 800 people have asked the D.C. police for licenses to carry loaded concealed handguns. More than half the applicants are not District residents.

City officials have long fought efforts to chip away at the District's strict controls since the Supreme Court declared in 2008 that a person has a right to gun ownership.

Last October the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit struck down a key provision of the city's law that had required residents to show a "good reason" to carry a firearm outside the home.

City officials decided not to appeal to the Supreme Court because of the potential national implications. An unfavorable ruling could have weakened gun-control regulations in states such as California, New York and Maryland.

Police Chief Peter Newsham cautioned that the District still has a stringent list of qualifications for a permit, including safety training, fingerprinting and background checks. Also, permits are not issued to anyone with a history of violence or mental illness.

Even with easier access to permits, many sections of D.C. are off-limits, including iconic spots like the public memorials on the Mall, the White House and the U.S. Capitol buildings and grounds.

Schools and child-care campuses, hospitals, sports stadiums and certain public events are also restricted locations.

Concealed weapons are banned from bars and nightclubs by law.

NJM, P.O. Box 10176, Trenton New Jersey 08650

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Back issues, from 1997 to date, can be found online. Just go to: <https://archive.org/> and in the Search Field, type in "New Jersey Militia Newsletter". So grab the PDFs and pass them around via email to others who have never seen the hard copies.

Johnson County, TX, Earl (817) 783-2375
Wake County, NC, Dave (919) 375-4840

The law does not permit open carry and those with permits must keep their handguns out of public view.

The change in the District comes as Congress has debated legislation that would allow gun owners to carry concealed weapons across state lines. The measure, passed by the House, would treat concealed carry permits like driver's licenses, making permits issued in one state valid in all other states. Under D.C. law, gun owners with permits from other states still have to apply separately to carry in Washington.

Matthew Grace, one of two people who brought the court challenges, was denied a permit in 2015, then approved in 2016 before being rejected again after a subsequent court arrived at a different decision.

Grace said he applied after a friend was robbed at gunpoint while making a deposit at a local bank. At the time, the law required an applicant for a permit to list a "good reason to fear injury" beyond living in a high-crime neighborhood or feeling unsafe.

Grace bristled at the idea of having to justify his desire to protect himself.

"I wasn't going to try to manufacture a reason. It's the Bill of Rights. You shouldn't need a reason," he said, referring to the Second Amendment right to "bear arms."

-- washingtonpost.com Jan. 26, 2018

Felony murder rule skews justified homicide count

By Dean Weingarten, January 17, 2018

A justified defensive shooting in a Texas Pizzeria resulted in the death of one of the armed robbers.

Amarillo Police Department has identified the dead man as Clayton Jerrell Morgan, according to a news release. Officers arrested his alleged accomplice, 29-year-old Ruben Ryal Rios, who police said was charged under the state's felony murder rule that allows a person to be charged with murder if they are involved in a felony crime that causes a death.

The shooting illustrates one

of the reasons why only 20 percent of justified homicides are recorded in the FBI Uniform Crime Reports. Morgan's death will be listed as a murder because of the felony murder rule. It will increase the official count of murders in the U.S., and reduce the official count of justified homicides.

-- www.thetruthaboutguns.com/2018/01

US Army drops grenade throwing as a requirement to graduate

By Ariel Zilber for DAILYMAIL.COM

The US Army will no longer require recruits to show they can throw hand grenades 25 meters because many of them can't throw the explosive far enough, it revealed on Friday.

'What we have found is it is taking far, far too much time,' said Maj. Gen. Malcolm Frost, the commanding general of the US Army Center of Initial Military Training.

Recruits will also no longer be required to successfully pass the land navigation course in order to graduate.

But the Army says that enlistees will still receive the same amount of training in hand grenade proficiency and land navigation, which will be incorporated into existing training regimens.

Many who are critical of the army's recent attempts to recruit women blamed increased diversity in the army for the drop in physical demands.

The army denied that the change had anything to do with gender-based considerations.

Author Kingsley Browne in his book entitled *Co-ed Combat: The New Evidence That Women Shouldn't Fight the Nation's War* said many women have trouble throwing a grenade 25 meters, a necessary distance given the average blast radius is 15 meters.

However, many scoffed at the suggestion that women couldn't make the grade.

-- dailymail.co.uk 14 February 2018

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